

Conover swamped by a broken sprinkler head

By Matthew Freedman

Last Friday, just when the residents of Conover Residence Hall thought they would be able to dry off after the rainstorms that had plagued the region, they found out were wrong, as showers broke out inside the building.

Around 7 p.m., an unidentified student knocked off the sprinkler head in the hallway near the entrance to the "B" wing of the residence hall with a baseball bat, which activated the sprinkler.

It flooded the hallway, rooms and the basement. The fire alarm went off and the residence hall was evacuated for almost an hour.

When the alarm sounded, campus Public Safety was notified of the situation and the Lawrence Township Police Department was called. The Lawrence Road Fire Co. and

the Lawrenceville Fire Co. also responded.

Once the fire companies arrived, they tried to turn off the sprinkler. They had to shut down the system in that area because they could not turn off the sprinkler head.

After they had shut it down, the firefighters and the facilities department mopped up the water with wet-dry vacuum cleaners.

Students who lived on the second and third floors were cleared to sleep in their rooms, but the students who lived on the first floor were recommended not to sleep in their rooms that night. They were also told to go into their rooms to assess the amount of damage with Public Safety officers.

Conover resident advisor Glenn Kasper's room suffered the worst of the damage because the sprinkler was closest to it, but said he was more worried about the safety of the students



Photo by Matthew Freedman

Firefighters clean up the wet mess on the first floor of Conover Hall after a fire sprinkler was accidentally set off by a resident of the building on Friday, Oct. 14.

in the building.

"I was more concerned in making sure everyone was okay," said Kasper. "The University and the fire company did a great job responding to the situation. They got the thing turned off quickly."

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Dean Anthony

Campbell assured the students that it was an accident and it was not malicious. If it the student had deliberately damaged the sprinkler head, the student could be charged with a felony crime and would face expulsion from school. In this case, the student is only being required to pay for the damage.

"It was one of those things that was purely an accident," Campbell said.

Freshman Matt Cardia, an affected student, made light of the situation.

"I'm sleeping with my swimmies from now on. My sub still works, though," said Cardia.

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Alexandra Samuel.

"I really think it is going to bring people on campus closer together," she said.

Samuel attributed this unity to the SRC's close proximity to the residence halls.

Senior Estefania Juncal said the new center enhances the college environment.

"I feel like the campus is complete now," she said.

Planning for the new recreational facility began several years ago with Rider's former president, Bart Luedeke.

According to Paul Lang, the chairman of Rider's Board of Trustees, Luedeke proposed the plans to the Board and started the fundraising.

Rozanski continued Luedeke's vision by creating a building that met the University's needs and by raising a balance of funds for its construction.

However, Lang added that

the creation of the new SRC was a challenging process.

"After all the years of dreaming and planning, the arm-twisting and check-writing and the endless construction meetings and deadlines, we have this beautiful building dedicated to the wellness and enjoyment of Rider students," he said.

Funding for the new facility was the most taxing aspect of the process, according to Lang.

The recreation center,

Phase I, and the Atrium, Phase II, cost about \$8 million. Many alumni made donations to fund the project.

"We cannot make these current and future investments without the continuing and expanding support of our generous alumni and friends," Rozanski said.

The groundbreaking for the new SRC was on April 1, 2004. Construction began in late August of 2004.

Rozanski said it has been a "remarkably fast" construction

schedule.

"We are delighted that we will be opening the SRC on schedule this fall as we promised," he said.

Rozanski added that future renovations will be made to the Rider campus.

"We intend to continue the renewal of the University, creating new or renovating existing spaces that will positively and substantially impact the qualities of Rider University's students' learning, living and social experiences," he said.

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by instinct," said Weinberg, in the video.

During the video, Weinberg admitted that his career with Bruce Springsteen actually started with a small advertisement in a newspaper.

"I still can't believe I hooked

up with Bruce on an ad," he said. "Bruce set the pace and like magic, it fell into place."

Weinberg continued to discuss his life chronologically. According to Weinberg, his interest in music began when he watched Elvis Presley and the Beatles on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. He then talked about his experience with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band between

the years of 1974 and 1989.

"A band is a fraternity or bond experience," Weinberg said.

In the band's infancy, it made rough tours in Springsteen's 1965 Chevrolet with a U-Haul trailer in the back. After the album *Born to Run* came out in 1975, the band's peak years began, insinuating a "chain of events" that resulted in what he called "pretty wild times."

When he got the phone call in 1989 that the band would be breaking up, Weinberg's life appeared to come crashing down.

"I was shocked when it happened; it was over," he said. "The first six months was pain-

ful. I went to great lengths to deny that Bruce broke up with the E Street Band."

After his illustrious career with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band took an abrupt halt, Weinberg said that he "looked in a new direction" in his life. He took it upon himself to reinstate into Seton Hall University and finish up the 21 credits needed to graduate with a bachelor's degree. Weinberg then went to Cardozo College's law school in the Spring of 1990, but bailed out in favor of other things. He then broke into the music business, and there was a point where he forgot about his original dream.

"The last thing I wanted to do again was play the drums,"

said Weinberg.

That mindset changed when he got a temporary gig with Natalie Merchant's band, 10,000 Maniacs. He then realized that he was meant to play the drums. Weinberg said he met Conan O'Brien on the streets of Manhattan one day – the rest is history.

"I believe that Max's message reached many individuals, especially those who did not know that much about him going into the presentation," said sophomore SEC Lectures Chair Kerry Hawkins, organizer of the event. "From the questions and comments presented to him at the end it seemed that the students gained a great deal from his message."

AT A Glance

GAS LEAK FORCES EVACUATION OF THREE ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

A gas line on the Lawrenceville campus was "nicked" on Thursday, Oct. 20 around 9:35 a.m. Classes that were being held in the science, Fine Arts and Swiegart buildings were evacuated for a short time while response units ensured that the area was safe, according to Director of Public Safety Vicki Weaver.

"We notified the fire

department," she said. "All the responding units arrived on scene quickly."

The main gas was shut off immediately as a safety precaution, said Weaver. There is no further information at this time as to what other measures were taken.

"All the responding units both internally and externally did a good job," she said. "They walked through science because that was the primary building that was affected. They gave the all clear for the building and the people were able to return to science."

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Furthermore, she also cheered Rider athletes at games and attended theater productions and concerts at Westminster Choir College.

After ten years as a board member, Luedeke was recently

honored with the Clara Barton Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service from the Central New Jersey Chapter of the American Red Cross.

She is an active member of WomanSpace, Mercer Hospital Ladies Auxiliary and the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church. Students such as Cindy Kunnas, are impressed

with the new renovations and honor Luedeke for her contributions.

"I really like the redecorating of the lobby," said student Kunnas. "I'd say Linda Luedeke is the perfect fit; I can't think of anyone else that would be better."